

BROADCASTS TO SCHOOLS

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SERIES: CURRENT AFFAIRS

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OPR: PLAY THEME

NARR: Hello Boys and Girls,

If you listen often to the radio I'm sure you'll notice something. You'll notice that important people are always paying visits to foreign countries. Lots of important people come to Guyana. They come from big countries like Canada and the United States and also from smaller countries like Ghana, and Czechoslovakia. They also come from the United Nations and other big organisations. Perhaps you've heard that the President of France - do you know his name? Yes, President De Gaulle, is on a tour of South America. Oh yes this is a time when paying visits to other countries is very common. Can you think of any reasons why important people make these visits? Well for one thing it often makes countries more friendly to each other. It is easier to feel friendly towards another country^{if}/you've seen its President or its Premier, if you've heard him talk if you've seen him *smile* or heard him make a joke. These little things are very important, boys and girls.

Now just a few days ago Canada was entertaining a very important visitor. Do you know who that visitor was? It is Queen Elizabeth II. And I'll tell you an interesting thing, boys and girls. The ^WQueen was not visiting Canada as Queen Elizabeth of England. No, she was visiting Canada as Queen Elizabeth of Canada. Now how is that?

NARR:

If we were to look a minute at the Commonwealth, we might understand how Queen Elizabeth of England is also Queen Elizabeth of Canada. The Commonwealth is a very large collection of countries which were once ruled by Britain but are now independent. But although they are independent ~~yet~~ they still want to be in some way connected to Britain and to each other. So they are members of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has an amazing *mixture* of people. You ~~have~~ countries like Canada, Australia, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Malaya, Jamaica, Trinidad and very many more. Some countries in the Commonwealth are republics - that is the chief person is a President elected by the People. For instance Ghana and India are Republics. The Queen is, as far as they are concerned, only the Head of the Commonwealth. She is not their Queen. But in countries like Canada, Australia, New Zealandia, Jamaica and Trinidad the Queen of England is also Queen of each of those countries as well. Each of these countries is headed by somebody who represents her - that is, acts in her place. And he is always called the Governor-General.

Well, because she is Queen of each of these countries she has a very special duty to visit them from time to time or to send one of the members of her family to visit them. That is why up to two days ago she was visiting Canada.

Naturally the Canadians want to see their Queen for they don't see her as often as the British do - since her home is in Britain. So the Queen went to spend some time with the Canadians and to do some of the things in Canada that she does in Britain. In Britain every year when Parliament meets for the first time the Queen, /dressed

dressed in her very special robe opens Parliament herself and reads a speech prepared for her by the Ministers of the Government.

Well a few days ago she did exactly the same thing in Ottawa - which is the Capital of Canada. Dressed in the same robe with the Crown on her head, she sat on a large throne in the Parliament house in Ottawa and read a speech prepared for her by her Canadian Ministers.

Of course the Queen does not only visit Canada to do the duties of a Queen. Remember what we said at the beginning - that visits by important people often bring countries closer together? Well when the Queen visits Canada she hopes that her visit will bring Canadians and the people of Britain closer together. She hopes that more Canadians will visit England and more British people will visit Canada - and that the ministers of Government of the two countries will meet more often to discuss matters. You can almost say ~~that~~ ^{that} the Canadians when they see her ^{again} ~~on~~ to her will ^{they} ~~remember~~ their old ties with Britain and take more interest in what Britain is doing.

But, there is a problem here, many people in Canada are related to people in Britain - are of English stock as we say. But there are people in Canada who are not of English stock at all. They are French by blood and ~~are~~ descended from these Frenchmen who settled in Canada over three centuries ago. You see, Canada once belonged to ~~Britain~~ ^{France}. But round about 1759 the British defeated the French in Canada and took it away from France. But the French people in Canada were determined to remain French at least in their language and their way of living. And they have managed to do that right up to now. Most of the French Canadians - as they are called - live in Quebec - a large province in Eastern Canada. Now if you

ever to visit Canada you would speak English everywhere - except in Quebec where you would have a difficult time if you do not speak French. In Montreal, the chief city of Quebec, all the street names, the names of restaurants and stores are in French. And the people of Quebec want it to remain like that. In fact recently some of them have begun to feel that they are being edged out by too many people speaking English. And so a few French Canadians have begun thinking of a separate independent state right in the heart of Canada. Most other Canadians do not take this seriously. But what they do take seriously is that the French Canadians show little interest in the Queen. Most French - Canadians do not like the idea of calling the English Queen the Queen of Canada. They objected to her visit to Canada. And last week when she passed through Quebec only a few people ^{turned out to greet her and they} were rather glum and silent. Many people had wished that the Queen would be able to make the French Canadians ^{free} at one with the other Canadians. This is one of the reasons why she was invited to Canada. But this has not happened. However the rest of the Canadians have received the Queen with great gaiety. They enjoyed having her in Canada. And she behaved with great dignity ^{when} with things were most difficult - this is one of the things which all great visitors have to do.

OPR:

THEME MUSIC

So long children.